

**CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
October 20, 2014**

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, October 20, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Phillip Roland. Pastor Alan Koch gave the invocation and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Phillip Roland, Commissioner Mali Gardner, Commissioner Kristine Petersen, Commissioner James Pittman, and Commissioner Julio Rodriguez.

Personnel Present: City Manager Al Perry, Finance Director Ted Byrd, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Community Development Director Travis Reese, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Utilities Director Danny Williams, and City Attorney Charles Schoech.

Visitors Present: Asa & Betty Godsey, Denise Hatton, Christine Howell, Donnie Hughes, Alan Koch, Pepe Lopez, and Sherida Ridgdill.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – City Manager Perry asked the Event Application for the Okeechobee Big Bass Challenge be added to the consent agenda as Item 1-G and the National Bullying Prevention Month Proclamation be added to the agenda as Agenda Item No. 7-A. The Commission agreed.

1. Consent Agenda

- A. City Commission Tentative Budget Hearing Minutes – September 11, 2014*
- B. City Commission Workshop Minutes – September 11, 2014*
- C. City Commission Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2014*
- D. City Commission Final Budget Hearing – September 22, 2014*
- E. Event Application – Clewiston C of C – Living Nativity – December 9 or 10, 2014*
- F. Event Application – CHS Homecoming Parade – November 7, 2014*
- G. Event Application – Okeechobee big Bass Challenge*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the consent agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

RESOLUTION

- 2. Resolution No. 2014-10** – This Resolution relates to the State Revolving Fund Loan Program regarding a loan agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection for the Main Lift Station project. City Manager Perry read Resolution No. 2014 -10 by title.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve Resolution No. 2014-10. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 3. Approval of Hendry County Library Cooperative State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement** – Finance Director Byrd has examined this agreement and it is essentially the same the City has entered into for the last several years.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve the State Aid to Libraries Grant Agreement. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 4. Approval of Library Fees for Microsoft Application** – Library Director Barrett has compared the rates charged by other educational institutions and offers rates she feels the Library should charge for this program. Application - \$20; Instructions & practice - \$50; Certification exam and 1 retake - \$100.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the Library fees for the Microsoft application as recommended by Library Director Barrett. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 5. Reappointment of Planning and Zoning Board Members** - Four of the P & Z Board members' terms have expired. Those members have agreed to serve another 2 year term and are as follows: Lewell Hughes, Haitham Kaki, Vic McCorvey, and Donald Hughes.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to reappoint the four members whose terms have expired to a two year term. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 6. City Manager Perry Salary Discussion** – The Commission had previously authorized raises for all employees of the City effective October 1, 2014. Direction is requested for the City Manager salary. Commissioner Gardner stated she had looked at the FMPA members city manager's salaries and she would recommend that City Manager Perry's salary be increased to \$100,500. Commissioner Pittman stated his recommendation would be a 3% increase. Commissioner Rodriguez stated City Manager Perry has done everything that has been asked of him and deserves to know he is appreciated. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that Mr. Perry works without a contract and that is important to him. Commissioner Petersen stated she would support a 4% increase.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to increase City Manager Perry's salary to \$100,500. Vote 3 yeas, 2 nays. (Commissioner Pittman and Commissioner Petersen voted nay.)

- 7. Formal Approval from Commission to Hire a Communications Officer to Replace Carolina Tellez Who Has Resigned.**

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve the hiring of a communications officer. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 7-A. National Bullying Prevention Month Proclamation** – City Manager Perry read the proclamation.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to approve the proclamation. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 8. Departmental Monthly Activity Reports - Presented for information only.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS - At this time, any person will be allowed to speak on any matter that pertains to City business. Scott Jones from Johnson Prewitt gave an update on the FWC grant application. Mr. Jones stated the design includes a thru lane and a staging lane, seal coating and striping the east parking area, adding two additional street lights and conversion to underground electric, a sediment barrier, excavation of a detention area, building a control structure, and installing drainage culverts. Commissioner Gardner asked about adding curbing to the existing light pole and Mr. Jones stated he thought that was something that could be added. Asa Godsey stated many of these changes in the plan were what the local boaters wanted to see and he believes it will help the congestion.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, to approve the rendition for the FWC grant application presented by Mr. Jones. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

Recreation Director Ramer reminded everyone about the Fall Festival on October 25 at the Sugar Festival grounds. He stated the CHS band and Sugar Dolls will perform, along with the costume and pet costume contests.

Dennis Hatton thanked the Commission for their support for the photo contest and that she is excited about how it is coming together. She stated the City's pages are almost complete and she further stated she had photos from six counties entered in the contest. Ms. Hatton stated out of 290 photos, there will be at least 130 in the book.

Jerry Cochrane stated he is concerned about the scheduled power outage because of the lack of notice to residents. He believes the outage should be delayed and the notice put on the utility bills.

Gregg Gillman stated he wanted to bring the Education Improvement Task Force project to the attention of the City Commission. He stated education is one of the main pillars that brings people to Hendry County and we have educators and administration sitting at the same table with them. Mr. Gillman stated they recently brought Junior Achievement to the high schools and every senior will receive a class on personal finance. He stated there will be some Career 101 counseling also. Mr. Gillman spoke about the VPK program and stated that 70% of all 4 year olds in Hendry County are going through VPK. He stated that education is the single biggest foundation to create economic vitality. Commissioner Rodriguez asked for an update on the Bionitrogen facility. Mr. Gillman stated the CEO of Bionitrogen sent him a memo stating they were planning to do multiple plants in the State. He stated they have had to change sites in the Weekley Industrial Development and have to do soil borings and environmental due diligence, but he feels they are still 100% committed to the Hendry County project.

Library Director Barrett stated she is interested to see if the Library can supplement anything to the VPK program.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER - City Manager Perry stated the Senior Citizens Building open house will be tomorrow. He stated that Ace Home Care will be performing health screenings, blood pressure checks, etc. in the morning and the Chamber Social will start at 5:30 p.m. He reminded everyone about the scheduled power outage Wednesday night at midnight.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY - none

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Gardner asked how the year end numbers were. Finance Director Byrd stated the final adjustments will continue for a while.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Phillip Roland, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk